

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05890 191905Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5702

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 5890

STADIS////////////////////////////////

NOFORN

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP SHUM PGOV CI US
SUBJ: CALL ON PRESIDENTIAL STAFF CHIEF GENERAL COVARRUBIAS

REF: SANTIAGO 5710

1. YESTERDAY I CALLED ON PRESIDENTIAL STAFF CHIEF GENERAL SERGIO COVARRUBIAS TO UNDERLINE US HOPE THAT THE GOC WILL MAKE PROGRESSIVE MOVES WITH RESPECT TO STATE OF SIEGE, DUE PROCESS AND CONTROL OF THE SECRET POLICE (DINA). I RECALLED TO COVARRUBIAS THE STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN CONCERNING THE US VIEW THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PROCESS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTED GOVERNMENT WAS A POSITIVE STEP. I POINTED OUT TO COVARRUBIAS THAT IN THAT STATEMENT THE SPOKESMAN HAD UNDERLINED THE HOPE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE AREAS DISCUSSED BY SECRETARY VANCE AND DUPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL AND THE GOC AMBASSADOR CAUAS; NAMELY: THE STATE OF SEIGE, DUE PROCESS AND CONTROL OF DINA.

2. COVARRUBIAS RESPONDED WITH A GENERAL STATEMENT THAT MEASURES WERE UNDER STUDY AND IN PREPARATION WHICH WOULD
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RESPOND TO USG CONCERNS IN THESE AREAS. I THEN CITED THE VELOSO CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW PROGRESSIVE MEASURES BY ONE ELEMENT OF THE GOC CAN BE UNDERMINED BY THE VICIOUSNESS AND STUPIDITY OF DINA. I REMINDED HIM THAT IN THIS CASE A 16 YEAR-OLD BOY HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY DETAINED BY SECURITY SERVICES, BEATEN AND TORTURED, AND THEN A CLUMSY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO FRAME CERTAIN LABOR

LEADERS. THE WHOLE THING WAS SO BAD THAT A MILITARY COURT THREW OUT THE SO-CALLED CASE AGAINST THE LABOR LEADERS. COVARRUBIAS WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS RECITAL AND SAID THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

3. COMMENT: ON SOME OCCASIONS WHEN I DISCUSS A PROBLEM WITH COVARRUBIAS, PRESIDENT PINOCHET WILL CALL ME IN LATER TO GO OVER THE SAME GROUND (THIS HAPPENED, FOR INSTANCE, IN THE CASE OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS AT THE SANTIAGO HEADQUARTERS OF THE UN'S COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA). IN ANY CASE, I AM CONFIDENT THAT A REPORT OF THIS CONVERSATION WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT; I WAS NOT SURE THAT MY TALK WITH CARVAJAL WOULD BE SO REPORTED.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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